

Swarkestone Sailing Club

Sailing Instructions for Club Racing

(including Open and Interclub events)

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012*.
- 1.2 The prescriptions of the RYA will apply.
- 1.3 Class Rules of Relevant dinghy classes will apply. Competitors must have a valid measurement or class certificate, or advance dispensation in writing from Rear Commodore (Sailing).
- 1.4 Full wetsuit or drysuit must be worn from 1st November to last Saturday in March.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the racing official notice board located in the clubhouse.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 15 minutes before the start time of the race concerned.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Race Box.
- 4.2 When flag AP has been displayed ashore and is removed, the Race Officer will give adequate time up to a maximum of 15 minutes for boats that are ashore to make ready to sail before displaying the warning signal.
- 4.3 Helms and crews must wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times when afloat. Drysuits and wetsuits will be regarded as inadequate. Improperly inflated lifejackets will be regarded as inadequate. This changes Rule 40.1.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Dates and start times of racing is published in the Club's annual programme. Start times for individual races may be delayed at the discretion of the Race Officer.

6 CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 Classes sailed by the club and their flags are:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Flag</u>
Wineglass	W on yellow rectangle
Laser	L on blue rectangle
Menagerie	M on green rectangle (used when there is only a single start)
Handicap	H on orange rectangle (used for a handicap start when there is also a class start)

7 RACING AREAS

- 7.1 The racing area is as shown on the Lake Layout plan, displayed on the Race Box. Boats racing should show consideration to other users of the water.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 The course shall be set by the Race Officer and displayed on the Course Board outside the Race Box. The Course Board shall show the number of each mark in sequence on a red or green background according to whether the mark should be taken to port or starboard. The number of laps to be sailed shall be shown on the course board in black on a white background. The race may be started on the Race Box transit line, in which case signals shall be displayed from the Race Box, or from a start line between a committee boat and a buoy with a flag, in which case race signals shall be displayed from the committee boat. Courses will normally be planned so that the first boat finishes between 45 minutes and 60 minutes after the start.
- 8.2 Courses may be shortened by displaying flag S with two sounds. When Flag S is displayed:
- (a) if the leading boat is approaching the line between Buoy 11 and the Race Box, the finishing line shall be that line.
 - (b) alternatively, if the leading boat is approaching a rounding mark, the finishing line shall be between that mark and the Flagstaff displaying flag S.
- 8.3 When a course has been shortened, all boats will finish the next time they cross the finishing line irrespective of the number of laps they have completed and adjustments to their finishing times shall be made using average lap times.
- 8.4 The sequence of course marks will not be changed after the preparatory signal, but the position of individual marks may be changed without any signal before the leading boat reaches the preceding mark. This changes rule 33.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Marks for racing will normally be the numbered club buoys 1 to 12 and X and Y.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 10.1 The shallow areas identified by stakes or by white marker buoys are designated as obstructions.

11 THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal given **5** minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2 If using a Race Box start, the starting line shall normally be a straight line projected from the two transit poles mounted in front of the race box. Unless otherwise notified, there shall be no inner or outer markers.
- 11.3 If using a Committee Boat start, the starting line will be between the Committee Boat and a marker buoy with a flag attached.
- 11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 11.5 A boat need not be afloat and off moorings at the preparatory signal. This amends rule 45
- 11.6 Individual Recall. In accordance with Rule 29.1 the Race Officer shall promptly display Flag X and sound a single sound signal. The Race Officer *may* notify premature starters by sail number, but is NOT obliged to, and when Flag X is correctly displayed it is individual sailors' own responsibility to return and start correctly, whether or not they have been informed by sail number.

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line shall normally be a line between the higher transit pole outside the Race Box and Buoy 11. If a course has been shortened, the finishing line may be a line between a rounding mark and a nearby Flagstaff displaying Flag S (see S.I. number 8.4 above).

- 12.2 When the finishing line is the line between the Race Box and Buoy 11, after finishing a boat shall not return to the beach or pontoon by re-crossing this line in either direction, and shall be disqualified if she fails to comply with this instruction.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM and DECLARATIONS

- 13.1 A boat must complete the signing off sheet within 20 minutes of the end of a race. This acknowledges that any necessary on the water penalties have been taken. Failure to sign the declaration shall result in the assumption of retirement.

14 TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 Class Racing. From the time when the first boat in the class sails the course and finishes, any boats that fail to finish within 20 minutes shall be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rule 35 and A4.
- 14.2 Menagerie or Handicap Racing. The time limits shall be as follows:

<u>First boat finishes</u>	<u>Time limit for other boats</u>
Less than 1 hour	30 minutes
Between 1 to 1½ hours	40 minutes
Between 1½ to 2 hours	50 minutes

- 14.3 Noting the wide range of handicaps that might be sailing at Swarkestone, it is open to a competitor to seek redress if the strict application of the time limits above would cause a clear injustice.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protest forms are available in the Race Box. Protests shall be notified to the Race Officer in person, within 20 minutes of the last boat finishing the race and shall be lodged in writing within a further 20 minutes.
- 15.2 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of when and where there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. Hearings will be arranged as soon as possible, but this may not always be possible on the same day as the race.
- 15.3 Notices of protests by the race committee under rule 61.1(b) will be posted on the race official notice board within 20 minutes of the last boat finishing the race. The race committee may endeavour to inform competitors being protested in person as well, but shall not be obliged to.

16 SCORING

- 16.1 The Low Point scoring system, (Appendix A to the Rules), shall apply for each race, except as modified below.
- 16.2 Single Handed. The helm of a 2 man boat may sail without a crew in any race, but the Portsmouth yardstick (PY) shall be reduced by 25 points unless the race is designated as single handed, in which case the PY shall be reduced by 10 points. For one or two day trophy races the reduction will be 50 points (*Note: the intention of the Sailing Committee in allowing this change is to encourage members to sail even if they are unable to find a crew on a particular day – it is not a licence to cut crew weight in light weather conditions. If the Sailing Committee consider this dispensation is being abused, they may disqualify the sailor from remaining races within the series.*)
- 16.3 Average Points. Helms attending open meetings or fulfilling race or tea bar duties (whether rostered or as short notice substitutes) can apply for average points if they miss class or handicap series races, to enable them to qualify for a series. A maximum of two average points may be claimed for any series provided that the number of races actually sailed is not less than one third of the possible races. Average points can be claimed up to 7 days after the date of the race by notification to the Race Officer, who shall enter the information on the race results sheet.

- 16.4 Changing Boats within a Series. In a handicap race series or the Menagerie class, Helms may change class of boat a maximum of once only within a series. If a Helm changes a second or further time – including a return to the original class – the results of those races shall be discounted. This SI does not apply to the Marj Lawrie two day trophy series, single day “Trophy Day” series, or to Open Meetings.
- 16.5 Number of Races to Count. The number of races to count in any series shall be half of the number of races actually completed in the series, rounded up to the nearest whole number, e.g.

<u>Number of races</u>	<u>Number to count</u>
3	2
8	4

- 16.6 A boat’s series score will be the total of her best race scores up to the number of races to count, as above, with remaining scores being discarded.
- 16.7 Series Ties. From 1 January 2005, series ties will be decided in accordance with the RRS, Appendix A, A8.

17 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 17.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

18 PRIZES.

- 18.1 Prizes shall be awarded in each series as follows:

<u>Number of qualifying boats</u>	<u>Awards</u>
1 to 4	First 2
5 to 9	First 3
10 Plus	First 4

(Note: Prizes may be awarded as “prize points” that may be rolled up to provide a single prize of greater value for presentation at the Annual Dinner.)

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 19.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility. It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail and compete in them. Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organising authority, the race committee, the race officer and patrol boats. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.
- 19.2 Competitors participate in the racing entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the racing.

20 INSURANCE

- 20.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000. By “signing on”, the Helm warrants that such insurance is in place and valid for the entire period that the boat is on the water.